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Poisonous serpents are said not to exist in New Caledonia, contrary to the statement of Hoffmann in Bronn's *Thierreich*. Dr. Trouessart (*Bull. Soc. Zool. France*, Vol. XXIII, No. 11) believes that *Neelaps caledonicus* was derived by Hoffmann by misreading Günther's *Neelaps calonatus* from New Grenada.

The Zoantharia of the Magellanic Region have been reported on by Dr. O. Carlgren, and published by Friederichsen & Co. of Hamburg under the general title of *Hamburger Magelhaensische Sammelreise*. Thirteen new species and three new genera are described.

A new enemy to the grasshoppers, which for several years have been devastating Argentina, has developed in the shape of a scarabrid beetle belonging to the genus *Frox*, which has taken to eating the eggs.

Albinism in a squirrel is illustrated by photographs in *Bull. Soc. Zool. France*, Vol. XXIII, No. 11, by L. Petit, in the case of a brown squirrel which is about 50 per cent albino and nearly evenly marked.

Mr. W. S. Calman has published an exhaustive review of the literature on the reproduction of the Rotifera in *Natural Science*.

BOTANY.

Vines's Text-Book.¹— In scope and bulk intermediate between Professor Vines's *Students' Text-Book of Botany* and the English edition of Prantl's *Elementary Text-Book*, this volume treats of the morphology, anatomy, physiology, and classification of plants in a clear and understandable way, and the illustrations, many of which are familiar to users of text-books, are in the main well selected.

T.

The Teacher's Leaflets, chiefly on nature-study, issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station of Cornell University, are admirably plain and direct presentations of everyday phenomena, the understanding of which is obscured by many of the more learned treatises. How a squash plant gets out of the seed, How a candle burns, Four apple twigs, How the trees look in winter, A children's garden, Some tent-makers, What is nature-study? Hint on making collec-

¹ Vines, S. H. *An Elementary Text-Book of Botany*. London, Swan Sonnenschein & Co. New York, The Macmillan Company. 611 pp., 397 ff. Price \$2.25.

tions of insects, The leaves and acorns of our common oaks, The life history of the toad (with a unique tail-piece), and The birds and I, are the titles of some of the leaflets.

T.

Elementary Science Bulletins of the Michigan Experiment Station, of which six have thus far been issued, dealing with Beans and peas before and after sprouting, Wheat and buckwheat before and after sprouting, Timothy and red clover before and after sprouting, Leaves of clovers at different times of day, Branches of sugar maple and beech as seen in winter, and Potatoes, rutabagas, and onions, are comparable with the *Teacher's Leaflets* of the Cornell Station. All of the series yet issued are by Professor Beal.

T.

Water-Lenticels. — In a recent number of the *Forstlich Naturwissenschaftliche Zeitschrift*, Tubeuf discusses the formation of water-lenticels and their significance. After a brief statement of some previous views as to the occurrence and function of ærenchyma tissue, he puts the following questions:

1. Is the development of water-lenticels due to the irritant influence of the liquid water surrounding the stem, and is their development above the water due to a transmitted stimulus?
2. Is their development due to lack of oxygen?
3. Is their development an ecological adaptation of woody plants living in moist localities, or is their occurrence a general one?

He concludes that their occurrence is not a peculiarity of plants in moist soils, but is a general attribute of woody stems. Furthermore, the lenticels formed whenever there was moisture; in other words, *liquid* water was not necessary, hence there is no such thing as transmitted stimulus.

He comes to no definite conclusion as to the relation between lack of oxygen and profuse formation of water-lenticels, but is inclined to regard the water as the potent factor. A number of figures accompany the paper, showing water-lenticels of *Sambucus*, *Ulmus*, and *Caragana*. It may be mentioned that water-lenticels and ærenchyma on branches of *Sambucus* and other woody plants were described and figured by von Schrenk in *Trans. Am. Micr. Soc.*, Vol. VII (1896), p. 98, Pls. I–III.

T.

Root-Tubercles of Alder. — The tubercles found on the roots of the alder and genera of the Eleagnaceæ were attributed by their discoverer, Woronin, to a fungus which he called *Schinzia alni*, and which